Amendments In the Claims

Please add Claim 21. Please amend Claims 9 and 17 as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A network verification tool (NVT) apparatus, comprising:

a network under test;

at least one probe network device coupled to the network under test, the at least one probe network device hosting at least one task type; and

an NVT server coupled to the at least one probe network device, wherein

the NVT server allows a user to create at least one task for the at least one task type by entering parameters into a template for each of the at least one task,

the NVT server is capable of transmitting the at least one task to the at least one probe network device hosting the task type, and

the at least one probe network device is capable of executing a process corresponding to the at least one task.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

an NVT client coupled to the NVT server, wherein

the NVT client provides the template to the user for entering the parameters, and

the NVT client is configured to transmit the parameters to the NVT server.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the NVT server is coupled through an Ethernet control network and a communication server to the at least one probe network device.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one task type includes at least one of a traffic generator, a traffic analyzer, a large network emulator, a session emulator, a device query or a script task type.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the traffic generator is compatible with at least one combination of a protocol, a media and an encapsulation, wherein

the protocol is selected from the group consisting of IP, IPX, CLNS, Decnet, XNS, AppleTalk, VINES, TCP, UDP, ICMP, and IGMP;

the media is selected from the group consisting of Ethernet, FDDI, Serial and Token Ring; and

the encapsulation is selected from the group consisting of ARPA, SNAP, SAP, Novell-Ether and HDLC.

6. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein the session emulator task type is selected from the group consisting of a multi-protocol session emulator, a LLC2 single protocol session emulator, and a SDLC single protocol session emulator.

7. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein the large network emulator task type is selected from the group consisting of a BGP large network emulator, a EIGRP large network emulator, an IP RIP large network emulator, an IPX RIP large network emulator and an OSPF large network emulator.

8. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein the device query task type is selected from the group consisting of a query CPU, a query memory, a query IP route, a query BGP task, a query EIGRP task, a query OSPF task, a query multi-protocol session task, a query LLC2 single-protocol session task, a query SDLC single-protocol session task, and a query traffic analyzer task.

9. **(Currently Amended)** A method of testing a network, comprising:
providing a test network having at least one probe network device coupled to a network under test, the at least one probe network device hosting at least one task type;
providing a NVT server coupled to the at least one probe network device;
specifying at least one task by entering the parameters for the at least one task into a template for the at least one task;
converting the at least one task into instructions executable by the at least one probe network device **using the NVT server**;
transferring the instructions to the at least one probe network device;
executing the task type associated with the instructions on the at least one probe network device in order to form a process;
monitoring the test network in order to determine performance.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein specifying at least one task includes
coupling an NVT client to the NVT server,
transmitting a collection of templates corresponding to the at least one task type to the NVT client,
entering parameters into at least one of the collection of templates to form at least one task, and
transmitting the at least one task to the NVT server.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the at least one task type includes at least one of a traffic generator, a traffic analyzer, a large network emulator, a session emulator, a device query or a script task type.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the traffic generator is compatible with at least one combination of a protocol, a media and an encapsulation, wherein

the protocol is selected from the group consisting of IP, IPX, CLNS, Decnet, XNS, AppleTalk, VINES, TCP, UDP, ICMP, and IGMP;

the media is selected from the group consisting of Ethernet, FDDI, Serial and Token Ring; and

the encapsulation is selected from the group consisting of ARPA, SNAP, SAP, Novell-Ether and HDLC.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 11, wherein the session emulator task type is selected from the group consisting of a multi-protocol session emulator, a LLC2 single protocol session emulator, and a SDLC single protocol session emulator.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 11, wherein the large network emulator task type is selected from the group consisting of a BGP large network emulator, a EIGRP large network emulator, an IP RIP large network emulator, an IPX RIP large network emulator and an OSPF large network emulator.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 11, wherein the device query task type is selected from the group consisting of a query CPU, a query memory, a query IP route, a query BGP task, a query EIGRP task, a query OSPF task, a query multi-protocol session task, a query LLC2 single-protocol session task, a query SDLC single-protocol session task, and a query traffic analyzer task.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the NVT client and the NVT server are coupled through the Internet and the collection of templates and the at least one task are transmitted using JAVA/HTML processes.

17. **(Currently Amended)** A network testing method performed on a test network having at least one network device coupled to an NVT server, the method comprising:

forming at least one task, the at least one task being formed by entering task parameters into a task template;

interpreting the task parameters **using the NVT server** to form executable instructions that can be transmitted to at least one probe network device that hosts a task code, wherein

the task code executes the executable instructions.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 17, wherein the at least one task is selected from a group of tasks consisting of a traffic generator, a traffic analyzer, a large network emulator, a session emulator, a device query or a script task.

19. (Original) A network verification test apparatus, comprising computer instructions implemented on an NVT server for

sending task templates to a user;

receiving tasks formed by the user entering parameters into the task templates;

translating the tasks to task code;

transmitting the task code to probe network devices.

20. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 19, wherein the task templates correspond to task types, the task types chosen from a group consisting of a traffic generator, a traffic analyzer, a large network emulator, a session emulator, a device query or a script task.

21. **(New)** The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the NVT server allows a user NVT server produces instructions using the parameters, and wherein the instructions are included in the at least one task.